



# WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE

## 38th Legislative District

January 2008

### Representative John McCoy



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**Committee assignments:**

Technology, Energy &  
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Agriculture & Natural  
Resources  
Human Services

### Representative Mike Sells



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**Committee assignments:**

Higher Education,  
*Vice Chair*  
Transportation  
Capital Budget

**Dear neighbor:**

**We're very grateful for the continuing honor of representing you and other Snohomish County citizens.**

The 2008 legislative session got underway Monday, January 14. Today, we're asking you to review questions covering topics that will most likely receive the lion's share of attention in Olympia.

Before we close, a few lines are in order about our brief special session in late November.

The governor called us into the one-day session to enact permanent property tax relief. The Legislature passed (and the governor signed) a measure to reinstate the property assess-

ment cap contained in the initiative. We also extended the tax-deferral program to include more middle-income families. **Be assured that this year's session will contain a more thorough discussion of property tax relief.**

**Thank you for your time answering these questions! Please stay in touch whenever you have other comments to share.**

**Best wishes,**

**John McCoy**  
State Representative  
38<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

**Mike Sells**  
State Representative  
38<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

**What do  
you think?**

**Toll-free Legislative Hotline:**  
**1-800-562-6000**

**TDD (for hearing-impaired):**  
**1-800-635-9993**

# Representative John McCoy ♦ Representative Mike Sells

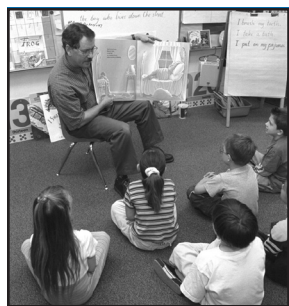
Please tell us where you stand on the following statements. Circle the appropriate number with 1 being strong *agreement*, and 5 being strong *disagreement*.

When you're done, refold the newsletter so our names and return address are on the front.  
Then stamp and mail it back to us as soon as you can.

**Thank you very much!**

## Education

*A good solid education has been called the great equalizer. Now more than ever before, especially with this new 21<sup>st</sup> century, we're in stiffer competition with other states and nations for new jobs and businesses. Our young people in particular, but in fact every one of Washington state's working citizens, had better be armed with skills and knowledge needed to lock up cutting-edge careers.*



We will continue discussing education issues, like working to locate a new UW branch campus. The goal is to have it in our district or somewhere else nearby in Snohomish County. Also, we'll investigate legislation on preschooling, K-12, workforce training, and strategies to increase access to higher education.

❶ Our state should bolster work with at-risk families of young children, such as services emphasizing more in-home visits and parent-participation.

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❷ Our state should include other measurements in addition to the Washington Assessment of Student Learning as graduation requirements, such as overall grades, course portfolios, and student projects.

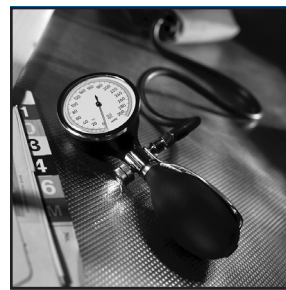
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❸ Our state should provide more encouragement for prospective teachers in high-demand fields such as science and technology.

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## Health care

*While we've made excellent progress in recent years, the fact remains that primary, reliable health care is out-of-reach for all too many Washington families. It simply isn't a financial reality for countless businesses in our state (especially, of course, the smaller companies) to provide basic health care for their employees.*



We know the 2008 session will see a number of proposals involving the affordability and availability of medical coverage, particularly for children, disabled citizens, and elderly people. As always, long-term coverage and other health care matters generate every bit as much debate from legislators in Olympia as these issues elicit from candidates on the

presidential campaign trail.

❶ Our state should bolster incentives encouraging more employers to offer health coverage for their workers.

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❷ Our state should reinforce programs encouraging healthy lifestyle choices so that citizens make more appropriate health care decisions in the first place.

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❸ Our state should reinforce assisted living, as well as adult-day programs and other services that provide more alternatives to nursing home placement.

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# What do you think?

## Jobs and the economy

*Our Washington economy is still growing at a much more imposing clip than the national economy. Two big examples: 1) Our state has added 90,000 jobs in the past year. 2) We have one of the lowest unemployment rates in the past 30 years. Importantly, much of this growth in jobs is occurring in high-wage sectors – such as aerospace and software.*



Rosy economic numbers, however, mean nothing if you and your family **aren't** taking part in the boom. Great



business-climate news and sterling reports in Forbes and other magazines aren't worth the paper they're printed on (or the Internet waves they go out on) if your company is one of the businesses headed in the **wrong** direction. Lawmakers in the coming months must keep seeking to create a better climate

for dependable, good-paying jobs, and dependable, good-paying industries.

① Our state should supplement existing incentives, and find new ways to stimulate family-owned companies and other small businesses.

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② Our state should place greater emphasis on streamlining the permit process, and less emphasis on conducting methodical evaluations of development proposals.

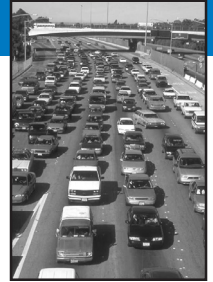
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③ Our state should foster increased business growth in the research and development sector.

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## Transportation

*First, the good news: The state of Washington is attracting more and more new citizens because people in other parts of the country see the Pacific Northwest as a good place to put down some new roots. Now, the not-such-good news: The state of Washington is attracting more and more new citizens because people in other parts of the country see the Pacific Northwest as a good place to put down some new roots.*



The 2008 Legislature will continue addressing the reality that a more-than 20-year stretch of steady population and economic growth has led our state straight into the road **outrage** plaguing each of our communities today. Our population has increased more than 40 percent since 1980, and we've added more than a million jobs to the economy.

Every single day, these and other factors place greater pressure on our transportation network.

① Our state should work toward expanding light rail and other alternatives to our conventional modes of transportation.

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② Our state should reinforce the connection between growth/development plans and improvements to the transportation infrastructure.

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③ Our state should grant more authority, flexibility and revenue options to local regions as a way to keep roads and highways safe and well-maintained, and to strengthen bridges, ferries, transit services, and growth planning.

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## 38th Legislative District Survey

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**Representative John McCoy**  
**Representative Mike Sells**

PO BOX 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

***What do  
you think?***

Please tell us if  
you want more  
information, or if  
you have further  
thoughts about  
these or  
other issues.

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***What do you think?***  
***38th District Survey***

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